

A PORTRAIT OF THE RIRIE-WOODBURY COMPANY



Program for Arts Networking Conference, Nov. 6, 2003

1. **Metal Garden** by Sean Curran
2. **Seated by Not Settled**, by Joan Woodbury
3. **Noumenon**, by Alwin Nikolais
4. **Crutch Interlude**, by Joan Woodbury
5. **Betty and June**, by Joan Woodbury
6. **Two Not Yet Together**, by Alwin Nikolais
from "Mechanical Organ"
7. **Apple Honey**, by Doug Varone
from "Let's Dance"

Founded in 1964, the **Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company** celebrates its **40th Season** creating original innovative modern dance. Founders, Shirley Ririe and Joan Woodbury began dancing together in 1952. These early performances and collaborations became the foundation for what is now an internationally renown modern dance company having performed in nearly every US State as well as the British Isles, Canada, China, Eastern and Western Europe, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Singapore, South Africa and the Virgin Islands.

Located in downtown Salt Lake City, the **Company** performs four different shows, annually, in the Capitol Theatre and Jeanné Wagner Center for the Performing Arts. In addition, a normal season consists of eight to ten weeks of national and international touring, ten weeks acting as resident dance specialists in Utah elementary schools, five weeks conducting extensive summer

workshops for pre-professional as well as professional dancers and eleven weeks of rehearsal which includes working with nationally recognized choreographers to enhance the repertory and as preparation for all performances and participation in numerous arts festivals and other events during the year such as the 2002 Olympic Arts Festival.

Ririe-Woodbury is heralded as a powerful force in the development of new dancers and is recognized as a company with a long-standing relationship with schools throughout the United States. They have succeeded in integrating movement and dance into elementary school curricula including performance, dancer training and experimental improvisation. In addition to elementary school programs, the **Company** has developed a program specifically designed for **pre-professional** high school students to provide information and exposure to the art form as a possible career. These types of programs have produced a long succession of dancers that now reside with other professional dance companies and academic programs.

Ririe-Woodbury has spent the last 40 years exciting audiences, teaching children, teachers, and adults, and nurturing artists. With an eye towards the future of dance, **Ririe-Woodbury** has invited Charlotte Boye-Christensen, dancer and choreographer from Denmark, to take on the role as Associate Artistic Director. Along with Gigi Arrington, Education Director, Charlotte will continue Shirley and Joan's mission to create new generations of arts enthusiasts who agree with the **Company's** philosophy that...

"DANCE IS FOR EVERYBODY"



Shirley Ririe

Pre-Event and Workshop Presenter

Besides her reputation as a world-renowned professional artist in dance performer and co-founder of the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, Shirley has been involved in Dance Education since 1952:

- Through teaching methods classes at BYU for one year and at the U. of U. for 38 years During these years one of her special areas was dance education on the elementary level.
- Through teaching model programs in dance education throughout the U.S. (Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company did more educational dance residency programs through the NEA "National Artists in the Schools" program from 1969 to 1984 than any other company in the country. She was a consultant for the National Endowment for the Arts during this period.)
- Through administering a 6 to 8 week program of residencies K-12 with RWDC throughout Utah each year since 1969 to the present.
- Through teaching many in-service and pre-service teacher workshops, both for the U. of U and also through RWDC nationally
- Through being appointed to write the core curriculum for the State of Utah on both the elementary and secondary committees.
- Through being appointed by President H.W. Bush as the only dance person to serve on the National Committee for Standards in the Arts. She attended 18 meetings in Washington DC and worked closely with the dance committee to develop the standards during 1992-94. In these meetings Artists and Arts Educators were concerned that the U.S. provides the least amount of education in the arts than any other developed nation.

Shirley says that her experience has taught her that:

“When children have access to the arts, they are motivated in all learning. I know that when there are specialists in dance, music, theatre, visual arts and movement education (well taught P.E.) in the elementary schools there are remarkable results in education in general. Because of this I would like to see specialists available in elementary schools.”